

**Testimony of John Murphy on behalf of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group  
in favor of House Bill 6163 -- AN ACT CONCERNING AN AGREEMENT AMONG  
THE STATES TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
BY NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE**

Good afternoon, Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin, honorable members of the Committee. I'm here today representing the over 25,000 member families of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group to testify in favor of House Bill 6163 -- *An Act Concerning An Agreement Among The States To Elect The President Of The United States By National Popular Vote*.

"One person, one vote" is one of the most sacred tenets of our democracy. It's the principle we use to elect every office in Connecticut from Governor to State Senator.

Yet, it does not apply to the election of the President.

Every four years, the voices of Connecticut voters go unheard by candidates of both parties. Unlike a "battleground state" such as Ohio or Florida, Connecticut is considered a "safe state" that does not merit the attention and resources of presidential campaigns. This is not rhetoric. It is a political fact of life that we see time and again.

The reason is because of our state's "winner take all" rule for awarding electoral votes. Neither Democrats nor Republicans have any incentive to campaign in states where they are comfortably ahead or hopelessly behind.

Today, two thirds of our states are in the same boat, and ignored by both political parties. Campaigns focus on approximately 15 battleground states. In other words, 200 million out of 300 million Americans are cut out of the most important election they can participate in.

In this context, the voter apathy we see and even criticize is not surprising. A vote in a safe state like Connecticut is simply not worth what a vote is worth in a swing state like Pennsylvania.

Under a national popular vote, we would restore the idea of "one person, one vote", and the democratic principle that whoever gets the most votes wins.

That would mean every vote would be equal, and candidates of both parties would be forced to campaign everywhere to get them. They could not afford to ignore Connecticut, because every vote would count towards the total they need.

In any campaign, the goal is to maximize votes where the candidate is strong, and minimize losses where the candidate is weaker. The result would be a truly national campaign that engaged the entire country in all fifty states.

"Engagement" means presidential visits and campaigning, but it also means discussion of issues, grassroots organizing, polling, advertising, and a substantial economic boost to the state. It means being part of this important process in every way that matters.

Last year, this committee did the honorable thing and sent a bill to the floor of the House where it passed, but was never taken up by the Senate. CCAG asks that you approve House Bill 6163 and get it passed in both chambers this year to give every voter an equal chance to let their voice be heard. Thank you.